

HIPAA LAW & YOUR CHILD'S MEDICATIONS

Starting in April, 2003, the "Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act" (HIPAA) became effective. In the past, the staff at the Connections Organization (Connections Day School, South Campus, New Connections Academy, and Connections, Academy East) were able to fax the "*Authorization for the Administration of Medication at School*" form to your child's physician so that medications (prescription and over-the-counter) could be taken at school. The physician would fill out the form and fax it back to us. Since HIPAA took effect however, we can no longer do this without your specific parental consent (please see the form: "*Consent to Release Protected Educations, Mental/Physical Health & Legal Information*").

Parents will now be responsible for getting their child's physician to complete the "*Authorization for the Administration of Medication at School*" form; and will need to fax, mail or bring in this completed form to your respective school.

Please remember that this form must be filled out not only for prescription medications but for over-the-counter medications as well (e.g.: Tylenol, Advil, Tums, cough drops, contact lens solution).

Even if your child is not taking prescription medications at school, please get an authorization form signed by your child's physician for over-the-counter medication so that we can medicate for common aches and pains (headaches, sore muscles, menstrual cramps, stomach aches, sore throats, etc.)

Also, be aware that doctor's offices are not consistent in their interpretation of HIPAA. Your child's physician may have additional releases for you to sign.

Any medications (including over-the-counter medications) that we are authorized to administer to your child will need to be provided by you. Please refer to the "*Medication Policies and Procedures*" for instructions on how to get this medication to school.

All authorizations must be renewed by September 30th, at the beginning of every school year.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please feel free to call your school nurse with any questions or concerns.

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